

Appn. No.: 10/516,443
Amendment Dated July 1, 2009
Reply to Office Action of February 4, 2009

SUD-105US

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Appln. No: 10/516,443
Applicant: Kassim Juma
Filed: November 30, 2004
Title: FIBER REINFORCED FILTER FOR MOLTEN METAL FILTRATION
TC/A.U.: 1797
Examiner: SUN U. KIM
Confirmation No.: 5507
Docket No.: SUD-105US

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116
Expedited Procedure

Mail Stop AF
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Responsive to the Final Office Action dated February 4, 2009, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

- Amendments to the Specification** begin on page _____ of this paper.
- Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.
- Amendments to the Drawings** begin on page _____ of this paper and include an attached replacement sheet(s).
- Amendments to the Abstract** are on page _____ of this paper. A clean version of the Abstract is on page _____ of this paper.
- Remarks/Arguments** begin on page 4 of this paper.

Amendments to the Claims: This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1. (previously presented) A ceramic filter for molten metal filtration comprising a ceramic powder and fibers bonded by a network of graphitizable carbon fired in a non-oxidizing atmosphere at a temperature from 500°C to 1000°C, wherein the graphitizable carbon is produced from graphitizable carbon precursor present in an amount from 2% to 15% by weight.

2. - 3. (canceled)

4. (previously presented) A filter for molten metal filtration comprising fibers bonded by a network of graphitizable carbon fired in a non-oxidizing atmosphere at a temperature from 500°C to 1000°C, wherein the graphitizable carbon is produced from graphitizable carbon precursor present in an amount from 2% to 15% by weight.

5. -21. (canceled)

22. (previously presented) The filter of claim 1, wherein the ceramic powder is selected from a group consisting of zirconia, silica, alumina, brown fused alumina, magnesia, clay, talcum, mica, silicon carbide, silicon-nitride, graphite and mixtures thereof.

23. (previously presented) The filter of claim 1, wherein the filter comprises graphitizable carbon produced from 5-15 wt% graphitizable carbon precursor, and wherein the graphitizable carbon is fired in a non-oxidizing atmosphere at a temperature from 500°C to 1000°C.

24. (previously presented) The filter of claim 1, wherein the fibers are selected from a group consisting of ceramic fibers, glass fibers, organic fibers, carbon fibers, metal fibers and mixtures thereof.

25. (previously presented) The filter of claim 1, wherein the filter comprises 1-10 wt% fibers.

26. (previously presented) The filter of claim 4, wherein the fibers are selected from a group consisting of ceramic fibers, glass fibers, organic fibers, carbon fibers, metal fibers and mixtures thereof.

27. (previously presented) The filter of claim 26, wherein the ceramic fibers are selected from a group consisting of alumina fibers, silica fibers, aluminosilicate fibers and mixtures thereof.

28. (previously presented) The filter of claim 26, wherein the organic fibers are selected from a group consisting of polyester fibers, polyacrylnitrile fibers, polyethylene fibers, polyamide fibers, viscose fibers, aramid fibers and mixtures thereof.

29. (previously presented) The filter of claim 4, wherein the filter comprises 1-10 wt% fibers.

30. (previously presented) The filter of claim 4, wherein the fibers have a length from 0.1-5 mm.

31. - 50. (withdrawn)

Remarks/Arguments:

Applicants note that claims 1, 4, 22 and 24-30 have been allowed. Claims 31-50 have been withdrawn. Claim 23 has been objected to and rejected as it purportedly does not further limit the claim from which it depends. Applicants traverse this rejection.

Claim 23, as correctly noted in the Office Action dated February 4, 2009, recites that the "filter comprises graphitizable carbon produced from 5-15 wt% graphitizable carbon precursor . . ." Claim 1, from which claim 23 depends, recites that "the graphitizable carbon is produced from graphitizable carbon precursor present in an amount from 2% to 15% by weight." The range of 5-15 wt% is narrower than the range of 2-15 wt%. Withdrawal of both the rejection and objection to claim 23 is therefore requested. As claim 1 is allowed, so too is claim 23 allowable.

Early and favorable notification to this effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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